

CLAIMS

1. A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, the computer program product comprising instructions operable to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:
 - receiving process data items, each process data item having been collected by an agent;
 - for each process data item, identifying a process instance with which the process data item is associated;
 - grouping the process data items that are associated with a first process instance into a first group; and
 - generating a reconstruction of the first process instance based on the process data items in the first group.
2. The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise: modeling a process based on the reconstruction of the first process instance.
3. The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise: monitoring the first process instance based on the reconstruction of the first process instance.
4. The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the process data items are collected by the agent upon the occurrence of a predetermined condition, and wherein monitoring the first process instance comprises modifying the predetermined condition.
5. The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the process data items have a first type, and wherein monitoring the first process instance further comprises specifying a second type of process data item for the agent to collect.

6. The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the agent is associated with a first tracking point, and wherein monitoring the first process instance further comprises specifying a second tracking point with which to associate the agent.

7. The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the agent is associated with a first tracking point, and wherein monitoring the first process instance further comprises specifying a second tracking point with which to associate a second agent.

8. The computer program product of claim 2, wherein the operations further comprise generating a reconstruction of a second process instance based on the process data items in a second group, and wherein modeling the process is further based on the reconstruction of the second process instance.

9. The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise:
receiving additional process data items, each additional process data item having been collected by a second agent;

for each additional process data item, identifying a process instance with which the additional process data item is associated; and

grouping the additional process data items that are associated with the first process instance with the first group.

10. A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, the computer program product comprising instructions operable to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

receiving a specification of a predetermined condition;

upon the occurrence of the predetermined condition, collecting process data items associated with a component; and

transferring the process data items to a central system operable to reconstruct a process instance based on the process data items.

11. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the operation of collecting the process data items occurs without modifying the component.
12. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the operations further comprise:
receiving a specification of a second predetermined condition; and
upon the occurrence of the second predetermined condition, collecting additional process data items associated with the component.
13. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the operations further comprise:
receiving a specification of a second component;
upon the occurrence of another predetermined condition, collecting other process data items associated with the second component; and
transferring the other process data items to the central system.
14. A method of monitoring a process, the method comprising:
using an agent to collect process data items;
transferring the process data items from the agent to a central system;
for each process data item transferred to the central system, identifying a process instance with which the process data item is associated;
grouping the process data items that are associated with a first process instance into a first group in the central system; and
generating a reconstruction of the first process instance based on the process data items in the first group.
15. A method of monitoring a process, the method comprising:
receiving process data items, each process data item having been collected by an agent;
for each process data item, identifying a process instance with which the process data item is associated;

grouping the process data items that are associated with a first process instance into a first group; and

generating a reconstruction of the first process instance based on the process data items in the first group.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises:
modeling a process based on the reconstruction of the first process instance.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises:
monitoring the first process instance based on the reconstruction of the first process instance.

18. A method of monitoring a process, the method comprising:
receiving a specification of a predetermined condition;
upon the occurrence of a predetermined condition, collecting process data items associated with the component; and
transferring the process data items to a central system operable to reconstruct a process instance based on the process data items.

19. An apparatus comprising:
means for receiving process data items, each process data item having been collected by an agent;
means for identifying a process instance with which each process data item is associated;
means for grouping the process data items that are associated with a first process instance into a first group; and
means for generating a reconstruction of the first process instance based on the process data items in the first group.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

means for modeling a process based on the reconstruction of the first process instance.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein the system further comprises:

means for monitoring the first process instance based on the reconstruction of the first process instance.

22. A system for monitoring a process, the system comprising:

means for receiving a specification of a predetermined condition;

means for collecting process data items associated with the component upon the occurrence of a predetermined condition; and

means for transferring the process data items to a central system operable to reconstruct a process instance based on the process data items.